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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /062 W
----------116232 112234Z /73
R 111115Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0697
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 0191

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, NP
SUBJECT: GON REJECTS CRITICISM OF HANDLING OF B.P. KOIRALA CASE

REF: NEW DELHI 408

1. BACK-TO-VILLAGE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE, IN STATEMENT ISSUED JAN 10 AND CARRIED IN BOTH GOVERNMENT ANEFINDEPENDENT PRESS JAN 11, HAS HIT BACK AT CRITICS OF GON'S, AND, SPECIFICALLY KING'S, HANDLING OF B.P. KOIRALA CASE. STATEMENT AVOIDS MENTIONS OF ANY NAMES BUT IS CLEARLY IN RESPONSE TO J.P. NARAYAN'S CALL (REFTEL) ON KING BIRENDRA TO RELEASE B.P. KOIRALA BECAUSE OF HEALTH REASONS.

2. STATEMENT PULLS NO PUNCHES, STATING IT REGRETABLE FOR "FOREIGN POLITICIANS" TO USE "SHEER PRETEXT OF HEALTH AND HUMINATARIAN GROUNDS" TO CALL DZR RELEASE OF "PERSON UNDER-GOING TRIAL" IN ORDER "FULFILL ONE'S OWN POLITICAL DESIGN." STATEMENT CALLS SUCH ACTION NEITHER "BECOMING" NOR "FRIENDLY TO NEPAL". IT CHARGES SUCH POLITICIANS AS IGNORING KING'S "SENSITIVITY TO HUMANITARIAN FEELINGS" IN ORDER "CREATE CONFUSION IN MINDS OF PEOPLE FOR THEIR VESTED POLITICAL INTERESTS." STATEMENT GOES ON TO NOTE THAT ALL WHO KNOW
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NEPAL REALIZE KING'S ONLY CONCERN IS WITH WELFARE OF HIS PEOPLE AND CITES AS EXAMPLE THEREOF THAT HM HAS BEEN "GRACIOUS ENOUGH TO GRANT OPPORTUNITY AS WELL AS MEANS FOR TREATMENT EVEN TO PERSONS AGAINST WHOM GRAVE CHARGES HAVE BEEN MADE."

3. COMMENT: HMG IS CLEARLY MORE THAN BIT IRRITATED BY IMPLICATIONS, OR WORSE, OF INHUMANE ACTION ON ITS PART IN

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CASE OF B.P. IT OBVIOUSLY FEELS RECORD IS EXACTLY TO
CONTRARY AND THAT B.P.'S RETURN TO DETENTION FOR CONTINUATION
OF LEGAL PROCESS WAS ALWAYS PART OF DEAL--AND SO UNDERSTOOD
BY ALL. HOWEVER, INDIAN CHARGE ARORA TOLD DCM JANUARY 11 HE
CONSIDERED ACTION TO BE "LOW KEY" IN THAT IT WAS PUT
OUT BY ANONYMOUS SPOKESMAN OF BACK-TO-THE-VILLAGE CAMPAIGN
RATHER THAN BY FOREIGN MINISTRY.
HECK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, TRIALS, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KATHMA00191
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780017-0056
Format: TEL
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780177/aaaacmte.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4f92eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NEW DELHI 408
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3794805
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GON REJECTS CRITICISM OF HANDLING OF B.P. KOIRALA CASE
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SOPN, NP, US, (KOIRALA, B P)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4f92eae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014